

Fort Des Moines Historic Complex,  
Building 70  
(Cavalry Stable)  
Des Moines  
Polk County  
Iowa

HABS No. IA-121-N

HABS  
IOWA,  
77-DESMO,  
24-N-

## PHOTOGRAPHS

## WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Building No. 70. Stable

This Classical Revival style structure, raised according to standardized plan 139 of the Quartermaster General's office, and essentially the same as Building No. 68, was finished on February 24, 1905, and cost \$14,843.19 to erect. The brick building rested on a limestone water table foundation, had a slate roof, and measured 67 feet wide by 165 feet long. It could accommodate ninety animals. The structure had a gable roof with decorative rafter tails. A louvered monitor with paired windows was at the ridge. Sixteen double hung windows occupied the side walls. At the front and rear were double wide sliding doors. Five double hung windows were also at either end of the building. All window openings had 3-course segmental arches and limestone lug sills. Inside, the floors were variously composed of wood, brick, cement, and clay. Interior space comprised 10,556 square feet, arranged thusly:

First floor:

Stable room, 64' 10" x 162' 10" (including 4 rooms, 9' 8" x 10' 7";  
1 room, 19' 6" x 32')  
1 room, 19' 6" x 32')

Loft:

Room, 41' 4" x 44' 6" (including 1 room, 9' 8" x 19' 6")

The stable was equipped with electrical lighting as well as with hot air heating and sewer and water line connections. Between 1905 and 1921 repairs to the building averaged little more than \$25.00 per year. In June, 1935, this structure was joined to Building No. 68 by a frame runway, 20 feet wide by 72 feet long, costing \$2,484.00 (this was later replaced by one of brick). The CCC temporarily occupied the stable as a warehouse in 1935, a status that seemingly continued as late as 1941. In May, 1940, two air compressors were installed in the building.

In 1942 a rear addition of brick measuring 66 feet 6 inches wide by 53 feet long was built to contain lavatory and shower facilities during the conversion of the stable for use as a WAAC barracks. This addition was practically identical to that built on the rear of Building No. 68. The south side of the addition now has a single door with wood porch and stairs, and one rear window has been converted to a fan-type exhaust ventilator. Other changes include the replacement of the slate roof with one of asphalt shingles, the covering with boards of the louvered ventilator on the monitor, and installation of two fan-type exhaust ventilators on its east side. A center door on the east side has been converted to a window, and on the front (north) side the double doors have been altered to single ones. In early 1987 the building was vacant. It is in good to excellent condition.(28)

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28. Card for Building No. 70. "Historical Record of Buildings." NA, RG 77, Box 51. QMG Plan No. 139 was not located in NA, Cartographic Archives Division.